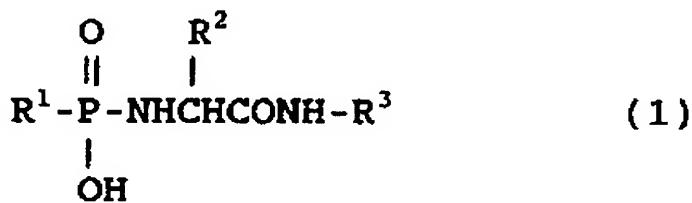


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

--6. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting hair growth, which comprises topically administering to an affected area of a subject in need thereof a neutral endopeptidase inhibitor having a structure according to Formula (1):



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wherein R1 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a hydrocarbon group which may be substituted, or a sugar residue which may be substituted, R2 is a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group which may be substituted, and R3 is a hydrogen atom or a –CH(R4)COOH, in which R4 is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may be substituted; and salts thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is not a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is not a mercaptopropionamide compound.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is not a mercaptopropionamide compound.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is an inhibitor of a neutral endopeptidase derived from a dermoepidermal fibroblast.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said subject is a human.

12. (Cancelled) --